

the city's school system. I had the honor, Mr. Speaker, as serving as chairman of the Marietta School Board during that time, and I experienced firsthand the compassion and commitment she had for the schools.

In 1984, Ansley conceived the idea of Marietta's Schools Foundation, an organization to support the teachers and the students of Marietta. As the organization's president, Ansley presented the Distinguished Alumni Award at nearly every Marietta High School graduation ceremony for more than 20 years. And each year she urged graduating seniors to be loyal to their alma mater, to their community, and to the valued friendships created at Marietta High.

As the city's leader, Ansley was successful in lowering taxes and improving city services, building a new courthouse, adding two new fire stations, and constructing a new police headquarters. Even with all of her accomplishments, she remained a gracious and humble leader.

Two weeks ago, on May 4, 2005, Ansley Meaders suffered a fatal heart attack while cooking dinner in her home. This devastating news fell over the community like a dark cloud, Mr. Speaker. One of our greatest community members had slipped away from us. She leaves behind her husband of more than 40 years, Frank, two children, Mary Ansley and Robert, and four precious grandchildren, Rosser, Georgia, Trey and Hunter; and an entire community who loved her dearly.

After only 59 years, Ansley's life and physical presence in her beloved Marietta, Georgia, has ended. But, Mr. Speaker, her passing leaves Marietta with a legacy of service, dedication, and humble leadership that will remain for generations to come. God bless Mayor Ansley Meaders.

CAFTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, CAFTA, the United States Central American Free Trade Agreement, is yet another unfair trade deal that will hurt American workers. CAFTA is the latest unfair trade deal in a decade of failed trade policies. Over the last 12 years, the United States trade deficit has exploded from \$39 billion in 1992 to over \$618 billion in 2004. If CAFTA becomes effective, the result will be fewer jobs for American workers.

CAFTA is modeled on NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, which had and continues to have a devastating impact on many American workers. When NAFTA was passed in 1994, the United States had a \$2 billion trade surplus with Mexico. In 2004, we had a \$45 billion trade deficit in Mexico. That means our trade deficit with Mexico increased by an average of \$4.7 billion per year over the last 10

years. As a result of NAFTA, the United States has been exporting American jobs to Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, the countries of Central America already receive preferential trade benefits. About 80 percent of exports from CAFTA countries enter the United States duty free. If CAFTA is passed, 100 percent of nontextile manufactured goods from Central America will enter the United States duty free.

CAFTA supporters like to claim that CAFTA will create new markets for American products, but this argument is highly flawed. The six countries of Central America, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic are among the world's smallest economies. These six countries have a combined economic output of only \$85 billion. My home city, Metropolitan Los Angeles, with a \$411 billion economy, produces nearly five times the volume of goods and services as the CAFTA countries. The CAFTA countries are simply just too small to absorb a significant quantity of American manufactured goods.

Unfortunately, the countries of Central America also are among the poorest countries. The average Nicaraguan worker earns only \$2,300 per year, or about \$191 per month. Forty percent of Central American workers earn less than \$2 per day. Central American workers simply cannot afford to buy American cars from Ohio or American computers from California.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent much of my time in Congress working on the issue of debt relief for poor countries. Two of the CAFTA countries, Honduras and Nicaragua, are included in my legislation, H.R. 1130, The Jubilee Act, which cancels the debts that poor countries owe to multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. In 2004, Nicaragua paid these institutions \$107 million in debt service payments. That is \$107 million that Nicaraguans could not spend on American products. As long as these countries remain heavily indebted and deeply impoverished, their people will never be able to afford American products made by American workers.

Any way you look at it, CAFTA is a one-sided deal that offers limited benefits to foreign workers at a tremendous cost to American workers. The only service these six teeny Central American countries can provide to the United States is cheap labor. It is no surprise, then, that the largest share of U.S. exports to the CAFTA countries consist of fabric. This fabric is stitched into clothing and shipped right back to the United States where it is sold to American consumers.

CAFTA is not a free-trade agreement at all, it is an outsourcing agreement. It allows profit-hungry corporations to shift American jobs to impoverished countries, where workers can be forced to work long hours for little pay and no benefits. It is a bad deal for Central American workers and it is an even

worse deal for workers here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, American workers need good jobs that pay good wages. They do not need another NAFTA. I urge my colleagues to join me in defeating CAFTA.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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VOTE NO ON CAFTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for her eloquence in opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement. She obviously understands this much better than some of my other colleagues who have not been so eloquent and thoughtful in their comments about this agreement.

I rise tonight to address the House about the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Last year President Bush signed the Central American Free Trade Agreement, a one-sided plan, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) said, that will lead to more outsourcing. That is what this plan is all about, and not a plan to export American products or help American industry. It is a one-sided plan to benefit multinational corporations at the expense of the United States and Central American workers, small businesses and farmers.

Every trade agreement negotiated by this administration has been ratified by Congress within 65 days of its signing. In other words, when President Bush's United States trade representative negotiated the Moroccan trade agreement, when the President signed the Australia trade agreement, the Singapore trade agreement and the Chilean trade agreement, all four of those trade agreements, upon signature of the President, were voted on by this Congress and passed within 60 days.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement, which we will discuss for a few moments tonight, has languished in Congress for nearly 1 year without a vote because this wrong-headed trade